

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of

Jonathan Schull

Serial No.: Continuation of 08/631,411

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Filed: Concurrently

Examiner: Unknown

For: METHOD FOR TRACKING SOFTWARE LINEAGES

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to the calculation of the filing fee of the above identified continuation application, please amend the application as follows:

In the specification:

After the title please insert

--This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent application S.N. 08/631,411 filed April 12, 1996, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent application S.N. 07/990,455, now U.S. Patent No. 5,509,070.--

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-19.

Please add the following claims 20 through 22:

20. A method of tracking the lineage of software subject to copying, comprising the steps of:
providing a first copy of software with first and second coded portions, said first coded portion including information which does not change when said software is copied, said second coded portion including a variable section which is updated each time said software is copied;
copying said first copy of said software to form a second copy of said software which is identical to said first copy except for said variable section of said second coded portion, said copying step including the step of updating said variable section of said second coded portion with lineage-relevant information that identifies said first copy; and
accessing said variable section of said second copy.

21. The method of claim 20 further comprising the step of reporting the second coded portion of said second copy to a remote storage device.